

N THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1 to 5 (Cancelled)

Claim 6 (currently amended) An agent comprising the ~~monomer~~ protein of claim ~~13~~ 14 containing an effective amount of the ~~monomer~~ protein for preventing and treating a disease affecting bone and/or cartilage.

Claim 7 (currently amended) The agent for ~~preventing and~~ treating a disease affecting bone and/or cartilage according to claim 6, wherein the disease is osteoporosis.

Claim 8 (currently amended) The agent for ~~preventing and~~ treating a disease affecting bone and/or cartilage according to claim 6, wherein the disease is osteoarthritis or arthroseitis.

Claim 9 (currently amended) The agent for ~~preventing and~~ treating a disease affecting bone and/or cartilage according to claim 6, wherein the disease is bone fracture.

Claim 10 (currently amended) The agent for ~~preventing and~~ treating a disease affecting bone and/or cartilage according to claim 6, wherein the disease is a lack of root of teeth and a tooth socket.

Claims 11 to 13 (cancelled).

Claim 14 (currently amended) The MP52 protein ~~according to claim 13,~~ comprising an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID No: 2 of the sequence listing.